



“In The Spotlight” with the DANTES Examination Programs Manager Mr. Len Lipp

by MGySgt James P. O’Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor

Mr. Len Lipp has served in DOD Voluntary Education for more than 30 years. He began his career as an Army Education Specialist at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1974. He then worked with the Navy Campus program for 12 years at various locations in Conus and at Rota, Spain and Naples, Italy. Mr. Lipp has been the DANTES Examination Programs Manager since October 1988.

Recently, I spoke with Mr. Lipp on the state of the DANTES Examinations Program. Here are some excerpts from this interview:

Q: How do you define the benefits of the DANTES Examination Programs?

A: It’s important to understand the breadth of the Program. It’s comprised of a number of various programs.

While the **General Educational Development (GED) Program** is a relatively small program, it provides Service members who have not yet completed their high school diploma the opportunity to earn a **GED**. This helps them qualify for Montgomery GI Bill benefits, as well as depending on the Service, promotion and/or selection to various Service schools.

The Undergraduate Admissions Testing Program

includes both the *Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)* and *ACT Assessment Program (ACT)*.

Service members primarily use these tests in applying for officer accessions programs to include: Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST), Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), and the Service academies, as well as meeting undergraduate admission requirements for colleges and universities across the United States.

For graduate-level education, we no longer directly provide the *Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General* and the *Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)* through DANTES Test Centers. We have, however, developed a funding vehicle that enables DANTES to **reimburse military members when they take the GRE General or GMAT at a national test center.**

The **PRAXIS**, teacher assessment and certification testing, supports transitioning Service members pursuing teaching careers through the Troops to Teachers program and assists individuals in meeting state teacher certification requirements.



Mr. Len Lipp

The **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)** is an unfunded test available on a limited basis (primarily overseas).

Despite all of the aforementioned testing activities, the DANTES Credit-by-Examination Program comprises the lion’s share of the DANTES Examination Programs. This program includes the:

College Level Examination Program (CLEP),

DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), and

Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) (formerly Regents College Examinations/ACT-PEP).

Continued on page 6, In The Spotlight

Distance Learning

DANTES Distance Learning news

DANTES External Degree Catalog update

Southern Methodist University offers three new degrees

Southern Methodist University's (SMU) Board of Trustees has approved the creation of three new degrees in environmental and civil engineering.

The new degrees are a master's degree in civil engineering, a master's degree in environmental engineering, and a master's degree in facilities management. All three degree programs are available beginning in spring 2002.

The degrees will be offered by the Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering in the SMU School of Engineering. This department was created last year in response to growing demand for these types of engineers.

The new master's degree in civil engineering will emphasize structural engineering and is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in either civil or mechanical engineering who want to advance to a higher level professionally or pursue a Ph.D.

The master's degree in environmental engineering will emphasize industrial waste management and pollution prevention. It is designed for students who have an undergraduate degree in an engineering discipline or the sciences. This degree complements SMU's existing master's degree in

environmental systems management, which has been in place since 1991 and is directed toward working professionals.

The master's degree in facilities engineering is designed for working professionals who are responsible for maintaining major facilities such as hospitals, shopping centers, or large building complexes. The program will pull together coursework from a variety of fields, including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and civil engineering.

For more information on these new programs or the SMU School of Engineering, visit their web site at <http://www.engr.smu.edu>.

DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs update

College for Professional Studies

New address:

6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33487

The American College of Computer & Information Sciences (ACCIS) announces new degree

ACCIS has announced the addition of the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems which increases the options for choosing an IT career with a new Bachelor's degree in management information

systems (MIS). This degree merges technical and decision-making skills.

Managing technology for competitive advantage and efficiency requires sound technical skills and broad-based business knowledge. The Bachelor of Science in management information systems is designed for the student interested in the use of technology to meet the strategic needs of management.

For more information or to request a school catalog, call 1-800-729-2427 or E-mail admiss@accis.edu.

ARNG

Interim Director appointed at ARNGI



GRC International, Inc., the contractor for the Army National Guard Institute (ARNGI) in Pensacola, FL, in coordination with the National Guard Bureau, has appointed Ms. Lee Cropsey, Deputy Director, ARNGI Counseling Center, to the position of Interim Director effective 1 January 2002.

Mr. Tim Scoggins, the former Director of the ARNGI Counseling Center, will continue to work with the Army National Guard Institute as an independent contractor serving as higher education advisor and consultant.

Calls for the Director of the Institute should be directed to Ms. Cropsey at 1-850-475-3212/3211 or DSN 452-1580/1550.

Calendar

March

9-13 Praxis*

April

5 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
7-12 GRE Subject*
15-19 CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*
20-24 Praxis*

May

7, 8, 9 ASE (Overseas)**
7, 9, 14 ASE**

June

7 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
10 LSAT
15-19 Praxis*

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

**ASE test orders must reach ASE by 15 March for May administration.

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/01-02htm>

ACT or SAT?

A question often asked in the TCO Workshop is "What is the difference between the ACT and SAT, and are they equally acceptable?" The answer to the first part of the question is the ACT is a test of curriculum-based achievement in English, math, social sciences, and natural sciences. The SAT is an implied learning test that measures how students think based on their experiences in and out of the classroom. Additionally, all officer accession programs accept both tests. Examinees should check with the institution in which they are applying to determine which test is needed.

In terms of administration, the ACT registration process is simpler and less time consuming. The ACT test booklet is stockable and reusable which reduces reordering requirements and minimizes inventory levels. The examinee is not penalized for guessing on the test and can retest after 60 days on the same form of the test.

ACT/SAT support materials

Do you need support materials to administer the ACT/SAT? Order the following directly from ACT or from ETS/CGI for the SAT I:

ACT materials:

DANTES Examiner's Manual For Administering The ACT Assessment® Program, September 2001 Edition

Preparing for the ACT Assessment 2001-2002 (practice test)

User Handbook 2001-2002

Taking the ACT Assessment For DANTES Testing 2001-2002

Using Your ACT Assessment Results 2001-2002

SAT materials:

DANTES Examiner's Manual for the SAT® I: Reasoning Test, 2001-2002 Edition

SAT Registration Bulletin, United States Edition/International Edition 2001-2002

Taking the SAT I Reasoning Test 2001-2002 (practice test)

For even more help and information, visit <http://www.act.org> and www.collegeboard.com.

No Test Center ID Number? No Test Order!

When ordering test materials, use the correct contractor order form and make sure the following information is accurately printed or typed on the form:

Your DANTES Test Center identification number.

Correct mailing address as reported to DANTES, Code 20C and provided to the testing agencies on the TCO/Test Center database.

(All address changes or corrections must be made to DANTES, Code 20C.)

Clearly identified titles and codes of testing materials and the quantities being ordered.

(A complete list of tests and support materials can be found in each program chapter of the *DEPH*.)

Test orders without the required DANTES ID Number and TCO/ATCO signature will not be filled.

Certification/Training

ASE deadline fast approaching



The ASE registration deadline of **15 March 02** is almost here. Overseas test centers should mail early. Remember to ask each military candidate to complete the DANTES preregistration form. Find all the 2002 Spring ASE Administration information including the DANTES Preregistration Form, at <http://www.dantes/cert/index.htm>.

Contact Sandra Winborne, Manager, Certification Programs or Carroll Barham (cbarham@voled.doded.mil) if you experience trouble accessing the web site.

DANTES welcomes NBCOT, Inc.

We welcome the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT, Inc.) to the DANTES Certification Program. Recently, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NBCOT, Inc.

NBCOT, Inc. is a not-for-profit credentialing agency that provides certification for the occupational therapy profession. NBCOT, Inc. serves the public interest by developing, administering, and continually reviewing a certification process that reflects current standards of competent practice in occupational therapy.

DANTES also sponsors the National Board for the Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists (NBCOT). Please note that NBCOT Inc. identifies the agency for occupational therapy and NBCOT (without the Inc.) identifies the agency for orthopaedic technologists.

We are preparing new policies and procedures for NBCOT, Inc. and will have the information on our web site in the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook*. Find the published chapter online at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm>. To view



information on NBCOT, Inc., visit their web site at <http://www.nbcot.org>.

Contact the DANTES Certification Program office for additional information at (850) 452-1360 or DSN 922-1360.

Spring training opportunity

Is it time to get in shape, professionally speaking? If so, you may want to think about attending the DANTES spring training camp, a.k.a. the DANTES Regional Workshop to be held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, on 22 and 23 May.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) will hold a "SOC Day" at Old Dominion on Tuesday, 21 May, in conjunction with the Regional

Workshop. Education office personnel and college representatives are welcome to attend both "SOC Day" activities and the DANTES Regional Workshop at no cost to participants.

"This will be a great opportunity to go back to school without worrying about grades," said Betty Keese, DANTES Training Manager. "A number of dorm rooms, singles, have been reserved at low cost to participants should they desire to stay on campus and, of course, we have a listing of local hotels as well." Asked what the workshop entails, she replied, "Many of our DANTES programs managers will be there to discuss the latest initiatives in testing, certification, distance learning, and other areas. We've invited someone from the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Service as well. There are always questions that come up

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about veterans' education benefits. We'll have an opportunity to tour the campus and see what exciting things are happening in Old Dominion's state-of-the-art distance learning facility."

Further information and the workshop registration form can be found at the DANTES training web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/DANTES/TRNGMKTG/workshops.htm> or by calling Betty Keese or Sandi Marquis at (850) 452-1884 or DSN 922-1884.

CAGIS contract awarded

The Computer Assisted Guidance Information System (CAGIS) contract has been awarded to ACT, Inc. for the DISCOVER

Program. The new contract commenced on 1 Feb 02 and will carry through 31 Jan 07. It will allow 225 sets of DISCOVER

information to be distributed to the field and help counselors and transition personnel provide better educational information to Service members and family members alike.

ACT, Inc. will continue to provide their training during most DANTES training workshops. Anyone not currently using the program should contact Mr. Vince Harmon, DSN 922-1884, or E-mail vharmon@voled.doded.mil if you wish to receive this new version of DISCOVER.



Stock items replenished for FY02

CISS and CAI materials have been received for FY02. Materials may be ordered using the DANTES Material Request Form and the item stock number.

The FY02 shipment for Strong Interest and Skills Confidence Inventory (SCI) and Myers-Briggs (MBTI) materials have been received and may be ordered using

the [DANTES Material Request Form](#). **Reminder: Only people who have received training may order and receive the MBTI materials.**

The other materials available through counselor support include the Holland Self-Directed Search (SDS) materials and Kuder Career Search w/ Person Match. The Kuder is ordered through the company directly.

Foreign transcript evaluation

DANTES has updated its web site that includes a list of companies that evaluate foreign transcripts and belong to the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). These are reputable companies. Some colleges and universities evaluate foreign transcripts on their own.

The three major references used by registrars and admissions officers worldwide are the:

International Handbook of Universities

Commonwealth Universities Yearbook, and

AACRAO World Education Series

The registrars and admissions officers use these books to determine if their university will accept the credits earned at a foreign school and to what extent. Each university uses these books differently (as dictated by their own policies.)

Other colleges and universities recommend or require the student with a foreign transcript to get the transcript evaluated by one of the companies that fall under NACES. These companies charge a fee and it's the student's responsibility to pay that

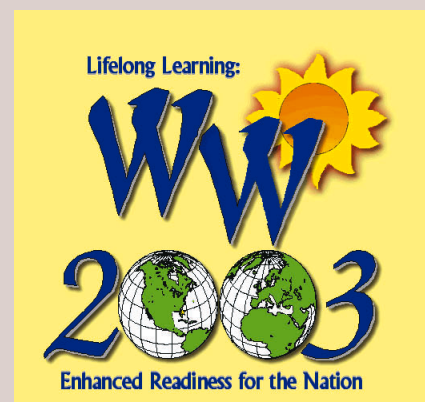
fee. DANTES cannot recommend or endorse a particular one, but wants counselors to know about them when referral information is needed. To determine the most appropriate one, the student should contact the educational institution he/she wishes to attend for additional guidance.

For an updated list of Foreign Transcript Evaluators, go to <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/refpubs/ftf.htm>.

DOD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

7-11 July 2003

Orlando World Center
Marriott Resort &
Convention Center
Orlando, Florida



For Symposium
information, go to
<http://www.ww-03.com>

In The Spotlight

FROM 1

Military personnel have unique requirements. Certainly their location can be a challenge (e.g., the overseas shipboard environments) as can their work schedules.

What we gain through our contractual relationships with the various testing agencies is a great deal of flexibility for the Service member. This means we can offer testing on demand in most cases, and with more flexibility if a specific test date is required. Most test centers test during the work week.

Our contractual agreements also provide a way to fund testing. All previously mentioned tests are funded except the LSAT. Some are funded up-front like the GED and the credit-by-examination tests. Some tests are funded after-the-fact (reimbursed). These include the GRE General and GMAT, because testing is taking place at a national test center.

Our contracts also provide a way for us to get the outcomes of these tests (particularly credit-by-examination) into the various Services' transcript programs. These include the:

Army American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS),

Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART),

Air Force's Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), and

Coast Guard Institute's system.

Q: How challenging and rewarding is the job of TCO and ATCO?

A: I believe the testing function is one of the most under-appreciated functions at the Education Center. I think the TCOs and ATCOs who deliver the DANTES testing program are critical in providing testing opportunities to Service members.



DANTES provides access to the testing programs, but the TCO or ATCO actually delivers the testing services. There's a big difference. It's their time, their expertise, and their resources that actually put that test in the hands of the military examinee.

Collectively, DANTES TCOs are well respected by the various testing agencies. They adhere to a multitude of regulations and on the whole do an outstanding job. A great majority of our DANTES Test Centers provide high-quality testing services.

We recognize that, in most instances, the duty of TCO is a collateral duty. Very few DANTES Test Centers have a full-time TCO. This often equates to TCO duties accounting for roughly 20 percent of their total duties. We know they have other competing demands.

The DANTES TCO has an incredible amount of exams to offer. From guidance testing to certification testing to admissions testing etc., the demand for testing continues to grow.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of what you do?

A: Without question, working with the TCOs and ATCOs in the field. These professionals strive daily to provide the very best services possible. Contact with them is rewarding to me, as well as to the entire Examinations Program Staff.

For this complete interview including the impact of CLEP eCBT, alternative approaches, and the future of testing, visit:

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/sea/index.htm>

For more information on the DANTES Examinations Program, visit:

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/index.htm>

Do you have a Success Story? E-mail me at jokeefe@voled.doded.mil.

**The DANTES Information
Bulletin
is online at
<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/bulletin>.**

ACME highlights

This month there are only a few updates to report from the various Advisory Councils on Military Education (ACME) State Chairpersons/Presidents of their Council "happenings." Make note of these changes plus mark your calendar to attend the COMETS Conference in Texas in April, Florida ACME conference in May, and the Utah meeting in May. See you next month.

News from Florida ACME

What: Spring Conference

When: May 20-22, 2002

Where: Trumbo Point Conference Center at NAS Key West, Key West, Florida

Past Presidents' Reception

will be on the deck of the conference center Monday, 20 May, from 5-7 p.m. Conference meetings will be Tuesday and Wednesday, 21-22 May with adjournment by 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

There is no designated lodging site for this conference. Attendees are free to select their lodging based on budget and location preference.

Key West is only two miles across, so everything is close by. Those attending should make their own lodging arrangements. Those who are eligible and want to stay in the "Q", also located at the conference center, should contact them directly. The phone numbers for NAS Key West's MWR is (305) 293-2112 and the Navy Lodge is (305) 292-7556.

For more information, go to <http://www.kwnas.navy.mil/cbh.htm>. Also, for a good map of Key West go to <http://www.kwnas.navy.mil/keywest.htm>.

For those who want to best help Florida's economy, there are many commercial choices. ACME recommends the free services of Key West Key Travel Services. They have provided superior service to ACME members in finding lodging in Key West for several years.

They can be reached at <http://www.keywestkey.com> or 1-800-881-7321. Identify yourself as being with ACME. Those interested in attending should periodically check for updates on the Florida ACME web site at <http://www.fla-acme.org>.

News from South Carolina (COMESC)

New President

Lizzie M. Lewis
8906 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: (803) 699-0099

Fax: (803) 699-2488

E-mail: llewis@webster.edu

News from Texas (COMETS)

What: COMETS 2002 Conference

When: 3-5 April 2002

Where: Omni Marina, Corpus Christi, Texas

Room reservations may be made by contacting the **Omni Marina** (there are two Omni Hotels in Corpus, so be sure it's the Marina) at (361) 887-1600. Be sure to state you are attending the COMETS conference.

The hotel offers single room rates of \$95 and state and federal rates of \$59 and \$80 per night, as applicable. The conference registration fee is \$110 (\$125 at the door) and includes two breakfasts and two luncheons.

Details are being worked out to pay the registration fee through the hotel. Details will be issued later.

For more information, contact Melody Toney at (501) 987-8893.

News from Utah (UACME)

New Chairperson

SGM John Strong, Education Services Officer
Utah Army National Guard
P.O. Box 1776
Draper, UT 84020

E-mail:

john.strong@ut.ngb.army.mil

Meeting: 17 May 2002, 11 a.m.

Host: ITT Technical Institute
920 W. LeVoy Drive
Murray, Utah 84123

One of the issues for discussion is "How will the Olympics affect student attendance at Colleges and Universities in the local area?"

Council of College & Military Educators (CCME)

<http://www.ccmeonline.org>

New President

Mr. Val Vera
95 MSS/DPE
125 Methusa Ave.
Edwards AFB, CA 93524
(661) 277-3718

E-mail: val.vera@edwards.af.mil

Note: Iowa (IMECC), Maine (ACEMVM), Pennsylvania (PACMVE), Virginia (SCHEV), and Washington (AMEWS) submitted no updates.

DANTES Information

DANTES

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Barry L. Cobb, Ph.D., Director

Lynn Owens, Editor

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